

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A device to protect the neck and the base of the skull of a person while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, either side to side or front-to-back , the device comprising:

- a) a free-hanging first impact-resistant pliable substrate whereby said substrate is adapted to encircle an extended portion of the person's neck and wherein said substrate extends upwardly from approximately the first thoracic vertebra to the base of the and lower cranium where it ends in a free-hanging depending end, forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection to the back of the neck;
- b) straps extending from said substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck.

2. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the closure of the straps results in the juxtaposition of a rigid planar substrate overlying the person's trachea, wherein the planar substrate is attached to one of said straps and whereby the second substrate makes contact with the wearer at multiple and distinct locations thereby distributing force of impact between the multiple and distinct locations

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 further comprising a means for reversibly attaching to a helmet[[.]] thereby forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection from the tip of the head of the wearer to middle of shoulder blades.

5. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the device is integrally molded to a helmet[[.]] thereby forming a zone of unbroken neurological protection from the tip of the head of the wearer to middle of shoulder blades.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the second substrate comprises a plurality of reversibly deformable substrates.

8. (Previously Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein all the first substrate, the second substrate, and the straps are radio-translucent.

9. (Original) The device as recited in claim 2 wherein the substrate is defined by an arcuate outer shell overlaying a cushioning substrate.

10. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein reversibly deformable material is integrally molded with said first substrate.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 including a means for regulating fluid flow through the second substrate.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first substrate and the second substrate are integrally molded to each other.

13. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the second substrate is adapted to defines recesses to removably receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

14. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein said first substrate extends to a region below the person's seventh vertebra.

15. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the first substrate is adapted defines recesses to reversibly receive a hot-pack or a cold-pack.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for imparting uninterrupted physical protection and predetermined temperature to the skull and human neck while allowing unimpeded motion of the a person's head, either side to side or front-to back, the device comprising:

a free hanging first impact-resistant pliable substrate extending from the first thoracic vertebra where the substrate ends in a free-hanging depending end to the lower cranium along the vertebra column of the region;

a second substrate integrally molded to and underlaying the first substrate and extending along lateral portions of the neck, whereby said second substrate is less rigid than said first substrate and further said second substrate features apertures and cavities is adapted to receive fluid;

a means for positioning cold packs or hot packs within the device so as to effect the temperature of the neck, thereby imparting physical protection and predetermined temperature to the human neck.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the positioning means is a cavity defined by a portion of the second substrate, wherein the cavity defines recesses ~~is adapted~~ to receive the cold packs or hot packs.

19. (Original) The device as recited in claim 16 wherein the second substrate further comprises a plurality of straps, each of said straps terminating with complementary closure means and each of said straps having a length sufficient to encircle the front of the neck so as to facilitate engagement the closure means.

20. (Original) The device as recited in claim 19 further comprising a third substrate attached to one of said straps such that when the straps encircle the neck, the third substrate directly overlays a tracheal region of the neck.

21. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said first and second substrates extend along at least a portion of a dorsal surface of the person's neck.

22. (Amended) A device to provide uninterrupted protection to ~~protect~~ a neck and the base of the skull of a person while allowing unimpeded motion of the person's head, the device comprising:

- a) a first impact-resistant pliable substrate, whereby at least a portion of said substrate extends along at least a portion of a dorsal surface of the neck wherein the substrate ends with a free-hanging depending end; and
- b) straps extending from said substrate and comprising means allowing closure of the straps around a ventral region of the neck, thereby protecting the neck and base of the skull of the person.

23. (Amended) The device as recited in claim 22 wherein at least a portion of said substrate extends along said dorsal surface between the person's thoracic vertebra to approximately a base of the ~~said lower cranium~~ skull.

24. (New) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the impact-resistant pliable substrate is shaped as a removable shield used in combination with, and reversibly attached to a protective headwear to confer uninterrupted protection from top of a wearer's head to below the wearer's seventh vertebrae.

25. (New) The device as recited in claim 1 wherein the straps include a detachable tracheal shield to facilitate access to the ventral region of the wearer's neck.

26. (New) The device as recited in claim 3 wherein the second substrate comprises reversibly deformable substrates only on the edges of the outer substrate.

27. (New) The device as recited in claim 22 wherein the straps include a detachable tracheal shield to facilitate access to the neck ventral region.

28. (New) The device as recited in claim 16 further comprising an upwardly extending end adapted to attach to a helmet and a downwardly descending end which is free hanging.